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EXAMINER	
VETTER, DANIEL	
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3628	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/797,494	REISINGER, KATRIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel P. Vetter	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 July 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claims

1. Claims 1-14 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1 and 14 were amended in the reply filed July 11, 2007. Claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's amendment to claim 14 overcomes the rejection made to this claim under § 112, second paragraph, and it is withdrawn.

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 1-14 under § 102 and § 103 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 14 objected to because of the following informalities: "tables from loadable from computer readable into said programmable memory" appears to be a typographical error. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-10, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uno, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,535,127 (Reference A of the PTO-892 part of paper no. 20070404) in view of Guenther, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,852,813 (Reference B of the PTO-892 part of paper no. 20070404) and U.S. Postal Service, *Minutes of the Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee*, Dec. 10-11, 1997 (Reference U of the attached PTO-892) (hereinafter "USPS Minutes").

7. As per claim 1, Uno teaches a mail-processing device comprising: a programmable memory having a table stored therein containing a plurality of codes (column 1, line 19; Fig. 36); a program memory containing an operating program (column 5, line 23); a working memory having mail-item-related data values stored therein (column 5, line 25); a keyboard having a plurality of operating elements allowing manual entry of said mail-item-related data values for said mail item into said working memory (column 5, line 44); a microprocessor in communication with said programmable memory, said program memory, said program memory, said working memory, and said keyboard (column 5, line 21); said programmable memory, said working memory and said microprocessor, in combination, being programmable by said operating program to set an operating mode for automatic code entry (column 5, lines 48-50); and said microprocessor being programmed in said operating mode to evaluate said mail-item-related data values stored in said working memory and to automatically select an applicable code from among said plurality of codes stored in said table stored in said programmable memory (column 5, lines 29-40; column 15, lines 1-6, Table). Uno does not teach the operating program is to generate print data for a franking imprint to be printed on a mail item that includes said applicable code; taught by Guenther (column 3, lines 31-35; column 5, lines 45-47). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of Guenther into the device taught by Uno in order to provide robustly franked mail pieces fully prepared for mailing (as taught by Guenther; column 5, lines 31-37). Uno in view of Guenther does not explicitly teach the codes are product codes; which is

taught by USPS Minutes (page 11, Parcel Barcode Clarification). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of USPS Minutes into the device taught by Uno in view of Guenther because product codes are useful to eliminate special service labeling requirements (as taught by USPS Minutes; page 11, Parcel Barcode Clarification).

8. As per claim 2, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 1 as described above. Uno further teaches said table in said programmable memory comprises a plurality of columns, each of said columns comprising a plurality of rows, and including first and second columns containing datasets representing defaults for valid shipping parameters (Fig. 26), and wherein said microprocessor is programmed for row-by-row searching through said first and second columns to identify datasets in said first and second columns corresponding to said values stored in said working memory and, for the valid shipping parameters represented by said datasets, said microprocessor evaluating structures in remaining columns of said table (column 15, lines 1-4; column 16, lines 59-67; Fig. 37).

9. As per claim 3, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 2 as described above. Uno further teaches a display device connected to said microprocessor (column 1, line 53) and wherein said microprocessor is supplied with a weight selected from the group consisting of an entered weight and a measured weight (column 4, line 15), and wherein said table is a first table stored in a first memory range of said programmable memory (column 5, lines 28-30), said programmable memory having further memory ranges in which further tables are respectively stored (column 7, lines 31-32; while Examiner recognizes that Uno does not explicitly use the term "range," it is noted that memory inherently is comprised of multiple address ranges, Microsoft TechNet: *Memory*, printed 4/5/2007, Reference U of the PTO-892 part of paper no. 20070404), including a weight table for determining a table index assigned to different weights (column 7, lines 51-65), and a product code table for determining a

product code assigned to said table index (column 21, lines 15-35), and wherein said microprocessor is programmed for storing a start address of said first table in said programmable memory (column 5, lines 28-29), for generating a screen image for shipping parameters associated with said values stored in said working memory and for displaying said screen images on said display device (column 1, line 53), and for accessing said tables in said programmable memory for evaluating data values in a row of said first table in said programmable memory, said data values corresponding to the values stored in said working memory (column 1, lines 51-52; column 22, lines 34-50) and designating, to said product code table, designated product codes (column 22, lines 45-50), and said microprocessor being programmed for storing the product codes designated with the table index for said weight (column 22, line 51). Guenther further teaches that the designating is done by a pointer (column 24, lines 66-67). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of Guenther into the device taught by Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes in order to reference a further data set (as taught by Guenther; column 24, line 67 - column 25, line 1).

10. As per claim 4, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 2 as described above. Uno further teaches a display device connected to said microprocessor (column 1, line 53) and wherein said microprocessor is supplied with a weight selected from the group consisting of an entered weight and a measured weight (column 4, line 15), wherein said table is a first table stored in a first memory range of said programmable memory (column 5, lines 28-30), said programmable memory having further memory ranges in which further tables are respectively stored (column 7, lines 31-32; while Examiner recognizes that Uno does not explicitly use the term "range," it is noted that memory inherently is comprised of multiple address ranges, *see* Microsoft TechNet: *Memory*), including a weight class table for determining a table index assigned to a weight class code stored in a further memory (column 7, lines 51-65; Fig. 36), and a product code table for determining a product code assigned to said

table index (column 21, lines 15-35), and wherein said microprocessor is programmed for storing a start address of said first table in said programmable memory (column 5, lines 28-29), for generating a screen image for shipping parameters associated with said values stored in said working memory and for displaying said screen images on said display device (column 1, line 53), and for accessing said tables in said programmable memory for evaluating data values in a row of a table in said programmable memory, said data values corresponding to the values stored in said working memory (column 1, lines 51-52; column 22, lines 34-50) and designating, to said product code table, designated product codes (column 22, lines 45-50), and said microprocessor being programmed for storing the product codes designated with the table index for a weight class in which said weight occurs (column 22, line 51; Fig. 36). Guenther further teaches that the designating is done by a pointer (column 24, lines 66-67). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of Guenther into the device taught by Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes in order to reference a further data set (as taught by Guenther; column 24, line 67 - column 25, line 1).

11. As per claim 5, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes and Guenther teaches the device of claim 4 as described above. Uno further teaches a receiver unit (column 5, line 41). The limitation "for loading and storing table values and data for entry into at least one of said table, said weight table, said product code table and said weight class table" is merely a statement of intended use and is only given patentable weight inasmuch as it implies structural limitations to the claim, which are met by the teachings of Uno (column 5, line 41).

12. As per claim 6, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 4 as described above. Uno further teaches an interface adapted for connection to the postage meter machine (column 1, lines 18-21), and wherein said working memory temporarily stores at least one of said weight class code and said product code

in respective memory areas (column 7, lines 51-63). Guenther further teaches wherein said microprocessor is programmed to transmit at least one of said weight class code and said product code to the postage meter machine via said interface (column 10, lines 30-34). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of Guenther into the device taught by Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes in order to calculate the postage (as taught by Guenther; column 10, line 31).

13. As per claim 7, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 1 as described above. Uno further teaches an interface in communication with said microprocessor (column 5, line 44). The limitation for setting said operating mode is a statement of intended use and is only given patentable weight to the extent that it imparts structural limitations to the invention, which are met by the teachings of Uno (column 5, line 44).

14. As per claim 8, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 1 as described above. Guenther further teaches wherein one of said operating elements of said keyboard, when actuated, sets said operating mode (column 13, lines 12-13). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of Guenther into the device taught by Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes because keyboard actuation can be used to initiate device functionality (as taught by Guenther; column 13, lines 12-13).

15. As per claim 9, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 1 as described above. Uno further teaches a receiving unit connected to said programmable memory (column 5, line 46). The limitation for loading said table is merely a statement of intended use and is only afforded patentable weight to the extent that it imparts structural limitations on the invention, which are met by the teachings of Uno (column 5, line 46).

16. As per claim 10, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 9 as described above. Uno further teaches wherein said receiver unit is a modem selected from the group consisting of analog modems and digital modems (column 5, line 46).

17. As per claim 12, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 9 as described above. Guenther further teaches wherein said receiving unit is a chip card reader adapted to receive a chip card having a memory in which said table is stored (column 7, lines 1-3). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of Guenther into the device taught by Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes to allow mobility for the mail processing system (as taught by Guenther; column 7, line 4).

18. As per claim 14, Uno teaches a computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure for a mail-processing device having a programmable memory (column 1, line 19), a working memory (column 5, line 25) and a microprocessor programmed to operate in an operating mode for automatic code entry (column 5, lines 21, 48-50), and having a receiver unit in communication with the microprocessor (column 5, line 26), said data structure comprising a plurality of memory areas in which are stored (column 5, lines 24-30), respectively, an application program for said automatic code entry (column 22, lines 45-51) and for generating screen images for shipping parameters on a display device (column 1, line 53), at least one first table in one of said memory areas and respective further tables in further memory areas to which access is enabled by said application program (column 7, lines 51-65; column 21, lines 15-35), said first table comprising columns of data values for valid shipping parameters (column 15, Table), and a weight table (column 7, lines 51-65), a code table (column 15, Table; column 21, lines 15-35) and a weight class table (column 7, lines 51-65; Fig. 36), all of said tables being loadable from computer-readable into said programmable memory via said receiver unit (column 5, lines 46-47). Uno does not teach that there are pointers to the

data; taught by Guenther (column 24, lines 66-67). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of Guenther into the medium taught by Uno in order to reference a further data set (as taught by Guenther; column 24, line 67 - column 25, line 1). Uno in view of Guenther does not explicitly teach the codes are product codes; which is taught by USPS Minutes (page 11, Parcel Barcode Clarification). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of USPS Minutes into the medium taught by Uno in view of Guenther because product codes are useful to eliminate special service labeling requirements (as taught by USPS Minutes; page 11, Parcel Barcode Clarification).

19. Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uno, et al. in view of Guenther, et al. and USPS Minutes as applied to claim 9 above, in further view of Official Notice.

20. As per claim 11, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 9 as described above. Uno does not explicitly teach wherein said receiving unit is a drive device adapted to receive a data carrier on which said table is stored, selected from the group consisting of CDs and DVDs. Official Notice is taken that it is old and well-known in the art for drive devices to receive data from CDs and DVDs employed as storage data carriers. It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above finding of Official Notice into the device taught by Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes because CDs and DVDs are reliable data storage media commonly used to transfer data between devices.

21. As per claim 13, Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes teaches the device of claim 9 as described above. Uno does not explicitly teach wherein said receiving unit is a memory stick interface adapted to receive a memory stick having a memory in

which said table is stored. Official Notice is taken that it is old and well-known in the art for drive devices to receive data from memory sticks employed as storage data carriers. It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above finding of Official Notice into the device taught by Uno in view of Guenther and USPS Minutes because memory sticks are reliable data storage media commonly used to transfer data between devices.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel P. Vetter whose telephone number is (571) 270-1366. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8am to 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER